

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/686,773

Examiner

Sharidan Carrillo

Applicant(s)

RACETTE ET AL.

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/28/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-32, 60-63, 65-67, 70-89, 109 and 110.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

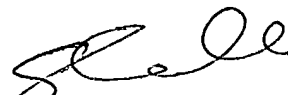
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



SHARIDAN CARRILLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. David Fournier on 5/25/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims: 33-59, 64, 68-69, 90-102, and 106-108

Amend claims 2, 70 and 73 as follows to replace all previous versions:

--2. (Currently Amended) A process for cleaning a substrate selected from the group consisting of a textile, a flexible structure, a precision structure, a delicate structure, and a porous structure, comprising:

placing the substrate[s] in a perforated cleaning drum within a pressurizable cleaning vessel;

adding organic solvent to the cleaning vessel, ~~the organic solvent comprising less than 50% by weight water;~~

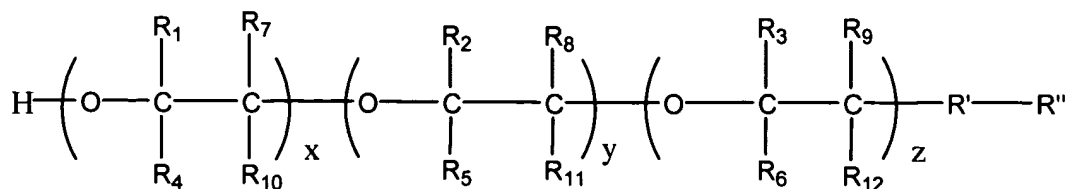
cleaning the substrate[s] in the perforated cleaning drum with the organic solvent and in absence of pressurized fluid solvent;

removing at least a portion of the organic solvent from the cleaning vessel; and
thereafter removing a remaining portion of the organic solvent from the substrate using at least one pressurized fluid solvent, wherein:

(a) the organic solvent is of the structural formula:

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wherein x, y, and z each is zero or one;

at least one of x, y, and z is one;

R'' is benzyl, phenyl, partially or fully fluorinated benzyl or phenyl, C_jH_{2j+1}, or C_jH_aF_b wherein j is an integer between one and (13-3(x+y+z)), inclusive, a and b each is independently an integer between zero and 2j+1, inclusive, and a+b=2j+1;

R₁₋₁₂ are independently C_mH_nF_p or C_dH_eF_g where m is an integer between zero and two, inclusive, n and p are integers between zero and five, inclusive and n+p=2m+1, d is an integer between zero and two, inclusive, e and g are integers between zero and five, inclusive, and e+g=2d+1; and

R' is O, S, carbonyl or ester; and

(b) when the pressurized fluid solvent is liquid carbon dioxide, the liquid carbon dioxide is at a subcritical condition.

Claim 70. (Currently amended) The process of claim 67, wherein the pressurized fluid solvent comprises xenon, nitrous oxide or sulfur hexafluoride and is compressed to a supercritical or subcritical condition.

Claim 73. (Currently amended) The process of claim 2 wherein the contaminant comprises an ~~[organic solvent soluble]~~ oil, or a ~~[an organic solvent soluble]~~ grease.--

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach cleaning a substrate selected from the group consisting of a textile, flexible

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structure, precision structure, or delicate structure, and a porous structure by cleaning the substrate in a perforated cleaning drum with an organic solvent having the claimed structural formula and in the absence of a pressurized fluid solvent, removing a portion of the organic solvent from the substrate using at least one pressurized fluid solvent, and when the pressurized fluid solvent is liquid carbon dioxide, the liquid carbon dioxide is at a subcritical condition. The prior art of Cauble teaches away from the claimed invention since Cauble teaches cleaning the articles in the drum in the presence of carbon dioxide. In an interview with Mr. Fournier, on 5/25/2006, the examiner suggested amending the claims to correct 112, first and second paragraph issues. The limitation of 50% by weight water, constitutes new matter. Authorization was granted to make the above changes in order to place the instant application in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schulte et al. teach a cleaning system using pressurized fluid solvent.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharidan Carrillo whose telephone number is 571-272-

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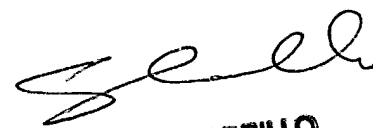
1297. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W 6:30-4:00pm, alternating Thursday.

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Sharidan Carrillo
Primary Examiner
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